

Senate Resolution 1272

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Chance of the 16th and Staton of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Prescriptive Authority of Psychologists; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it has been held by some that prescribing privileges for psychologists should be
4 pursued in order to improve the availability of comprehensive, quality mental health care; and

5 WHEREAS, prescription medication is an important component of affordable and accessible
6 mental health services; and

7 WHEREAS, under existing state law, patients needing psychotropic medications must obtain
8 prescriptions from psychiatrists, who are in shorter supply and often charge higher rates; and

9 WHEREAS, many patients who need both psychotherapy and medication must see separate
10 practitioners, adding inconvenience and cost to their care, which can pose a substantial burden
11 in underserved rural areas; and

12 WHEREAS, a comprehensive evaluation of the limitations on the availability of prescription
13 medications is necessary to determine if current statutory restrictions require modification.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
15 Study Committee on Prescriptive Authority of Psychologists to be composed of five members
16 of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments, which shall designate
17 one member as the chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the
18 chairperson.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
20 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
21 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
22 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient

1 to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
2 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the
3 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall
4 receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds
5 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated
6 to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations,
7 with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before
8 December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.